Students will be back to full-day, in-person instruction as remote learning will be limited to students who test positive for COVID-19 and may require quarantine.

“The health and safety of our students and our staff are our top priorities. We are committed to providing a learning environment that is as safe and healthy as possible for everyone while providing meaningful instruction and learning opportunities. There is consensus that students do best academically, socially, and emotionally when physically in school,” Lyons stated.

Back-to-school nights in Somers and Hendrick Hudson will be held virtual this year, while Hendrick Hudson Superintendent of Schools Joseph Hochreiter said Hendrick Hudson will utilize outdoor learning spaces for large gatherings and mask breaks.

After-school usage in school buildings in some districts will be on a limited basis.

During her first address last week, Governor Kathy Hochul said she will be pursuing options to mandate vaccines for school employees or require weekly testing in the absence of vaccines.

New York State Commissioner of Education Dr. Betty A. Rosa expressed her support for the governor’s plans. “Governor Hochul’s action, taken after consultation with educators, demonstrates continued on page 2

By Rick Pezzullo

A Peekskill man was killed early Sunday morning in a head-on crash on the Palisades Interstate Parkway in Stony Point. According to State Police from the Haverstraw and Monroe barracks, Raul B. Ortunouza, 29, of Peekskill, was traveling north on the Palisades in a Honda Civic about 4:50 a.m. August 29 when he failed to negotiate a bend in the roadway.

His car then crossed over the median into southbound traffic and struck a 2020 Mercedes Benz head-on. Ortunouza was pronounced dead at the scene. The operator of the Mercedes Benz, who was not identified, suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Police are continuing to investigate the accident.

By Rick Pezzullo

Tri-Municipal 9/11 Memorial Ceremony Planned at Croton Landing

By Rick Pezzullo

Officials from Cortlandt and the villages of Buchanan and Croton-on-Hudson will be holding a ceremony at 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 11, at the “Reaching Through the Shadow” Memorial at Croton Landing Park in Croton-on-Hudson to mark the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the nation.

“As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we remember those that lost family and friends, the brave first and second responders who rushed to render aid—many of whom lost their lives due to illness from exposure at Ground Zero—and our dedicated veterans of the War on Terrorism,” said Croton Mayor Brian Pugh. “On that day and the years since, everyday Americans showed us the true meaning of courage. The camaraderie and deep care that first responders showed as they put their lives at risk for complete strangers is part of the American spirit that we cherish and that will always live on in this great nation.”

“It is important on this 20th Anniversary of Sept 11th that we continue to remember continued on page 2

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By Rick Pezzullo

The former Payless shoe store at the Cortlandt Town Center is being reconfigured to house beer and ice cream enthusiasts.

With plans to open in early October, Dog Haus Biergarten will debut its first franchise in Westchester County. Dog Haus will feature a 75-seat beer garden with indoor and outdoor seating with 24 beers on tap, including wine and liquor. It will also serve gourmet hot dogs, sausages, specialty hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, wings, breakfast burritos and many meatless options.

Schools Adopt Similar Health, Classes Resume

Common Council, Peekskill Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Mauricio expressed optimism for the upcoming school year, noting 2,484 Chromebooks had been distributed to all students in the district and many exciting programs and improvements had been made in the district.

“Our children need to know we will be okay and it’s fun to learn in our schools,” he said.

One the other side of the location will be a Haagen-Dazs ice cream store.

The business is owned by Andrew Hamerling, who owns Jersey Mike’s in Hartsdale, and Dave Orth.

“It is rare that you get the opportunity to work with two franchisees that have a combination of analytical understanding, determination and a customer-driven approach,” Dog Haus Partner Quasim Riaz stated in a company release. “We have already seen them hit the ground running and there will be no stopping them. We are thrilled to have Andrew and Dave join the Dog Haus family.”

After working in finance for 22 years, Hamerling decided to dig into franchising when he opened Jersey Mike’s. When longtime friend, Orth, saw Hamerling’s success in the restaurant industry, they decided to join forces.

“I was actually the current franchisee of Dog Haus Biergarten Clifton Park, that introduced us to the brand,” Orth said. “We loved how the concept is the perfect mix of a family-friendly eatery and a well-appointed bar with character, craft beers and cocktails. We were also impressed with the quality of the food, as well as the vibe that emanates from the crew members. We’ve discovered the best city to introduce Dog Haus to - Mohegan Lake - because it has a vibrant customer base, and there is nothing like Dog Haus in the area.”

Dog Haus in Mohegan Lake will mark the second location in New York. Dog Haus has nearly 50 restaurants open nationwide with more than 10 currently in development stages.

“We are well-positioned to run this location with our combined skill sets,” said Hamerling. “As longtime friends, we are excited to break into this franchise business together and can’t wait to bring The Absolute Wurst to Mohegan Lake.”

Tri-Municipal 9/11 Memorial Ceremony Planned at Croton Landing

from the Village of Croton will be available in the parking area to transport those who need assistance.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held indoors at the Harmon Firehouse, located at 30 Wayne Street, Croton.

“Every 9/11 we hold a very beautiful and solemn ceremony to honor those we lost tragically that day in our Country and in our community at our Memorial, “Reaching Through the Shadow,”” said Supervisor Linda Puglisi. “However, every day we will never forget them and we will always thank the first responders.”

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COVID Cases Flat in Area for First Time Since June

By Martin Wilbur

For the first time in two months, active COVID-19 cases have leveled off in Westchester and Putnam counties over the past week, nearly unchanged from the previous week.

On Monday, the Westchester reported 2,797 active cases, up just four from the conclusion of the weekend of Aug. 21-22.

“That’s the first time since we have gone through a week since the end of June where we did not have a significant increase in the number of active cases,” said County Executive George Latimer.

In late June, active cases fell to between 100 and 200 before the onslaught of the Delta variant, which has ripped through regions of the United States that have poor vaccination rates, causing spikes in hospitalizations and deaths.

While there was a plateau in the number of cases during the past week, hospitalizations continue to tick up. Late last week the number of COVID-19-related hospitalizations exceeded the century mark, with there being 108 coronavirus patients.

Also, in a seven-day span last week there were five deaths, which followed a week with three COVID deaths. There have now been 2,308 fatalities among Westchester residents.

“The number of cases during the past week, nearly unchanged from the week before, is a remarkable sign,” Latimer said.

Latimer said the county will continue to partner with school districts that want to host pop-up sites to inoculate students and staff. He said that 10 county departments are 100 percent vaccinated while another 12 have reached the 80 percent mark.

The county executive said that someone’s confidence among teenagers and young adults eligible to receive the vaccine.

“Latimer said the county will continue to partner with school districts that want to host pop-up sites to inoculate students and staff. He said that 10 county departments are 100 percent vaccinated while another 12 have reached the 80 percent mark.

The county executive said that someone’s best chance to remain healthy during the pandemic is to get the vaccine, despite the rise in cases since late June. While active cases are at about 2,800 with relatively few deaths, in January there were about 11,500 cases.

“There’s almost a direct correlation to the increase in hospitalizations and the tremendous drop in the number of cases,” Latimer said.

Statewide, New York’s 10 regions ranged in positivity rates from a low of 2.7 percent in New York City on Sunday to a high of 7.8 percent in the Mohawk Valley. The Mid Hudson region, which includes Westchester and Putnam counties, registered a 3.6 percent positivity rate on Sunday. The Mid Hudson region’s seven-day rolling average stood at 3.7 percent through last weekend.

Westchester’s Sunday positivity rate was 3 percent while Putnam County came in at 4.2 percent with 19 positives out of 457 tests.

August 31 - September 6, 2021
The end result is it was a one-sided view, which is how to fix a roadway, without taking into consideration the concerns of the community,” Abinanti said. “Now they’re responding to the concerns of the community, but that should have been done before the project started.”

Elevation of the roadway is necessary to meet 100-year flood projections and provide necessary drainage improvements, the DOT said in a statement before the work started last fall. In past years, that stretch of roadway was prone to flooding and closures during persistent or heavy rains.

A representative for Harckham said the senator and Abinanti walked through the work area with the DOT’s regional director, urging the agency to revise the daily work schedule.

“We understand that the New York State Department of Transportation is trying to get this project done as quickly as possible so there’s a balance that needs to be achieved for the residents there and we’re going to continue to work with them to make sure it’s acceptable for people in that area,” the representative said.

However, Abinanti has been highly critical of the DOT, especially for failing to address impacts on the community with local residents before work got underway. He also blamed the Cuomo administration for looking to get work done as quickly as possible without regard for residents. The assemblyman said he hopes there will be a more effective approach under Gov. Kathy Hochul.

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9:30am-3:30pm

### Thornwood Wines & Spirits

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**August 31 - September 6, 2021**

### Wines & Spirits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Bottle Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grey Goose Vodka</td>
<td>1.75 L</td>
<td>$44.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belvedere Vodka</td>
<td>1.75 L</td>
<td>$46.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ketel One Vodka</td>
<td>1.75 L</td>
<td>$39.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Noon Seltzer</td>
<td>Variety 8 PK</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
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</tbody>
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### Maker's Mark Bourbon
- **$49.99**
- **$32.99**
- **$33.99**
- **$29.99**
- **$20.99**
- **$19.99**
- **$16.99**

### Jack Daniel's Bourbon
- **$47.99**
- **$29.99**
- **$20.99**

### Johnnie Walker Black
- **$69.99**
- **$29.99**

### Basil Hayden's Bourbon
- **$39.99**
- **$21.99**

### Widow Jane Bourbon
- **$59.99**
- **$19.99**

### Jim Beam Bourbon
- **$29.99**
- **$11.99**

### Mionetto Prosecco
- **$74.99**
- **$69.99**
- **$99.99**
- **$69.99**

### Johnnie Walker 18Yr
- **$29.99**

### Woodford Reserve Bourbon
- **$59.99**

### Clase Azul Reposado
- **$135.99**

### Bombay Sapphire Gin 1.75L
- **$39.99**

### Casamigos Blanco Tequila
- **$41.99**

### Cavit Pinot Grigio
- **$12.99**

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- Barefoot 1.5L
- Lindeman's 1.5L

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Guilty Verdict in Chappaqua School District Kickback Scheme

By Martin Wilbur

A Yonkers man who paid a Chappaqua School District employee more than $5,000 in bribes and kickbacks faces five to 15 years in state prison after being found guilty of two felony counts last week. Ricardo Jimenez, 57, was convicted on Aug. 26 of second-degree bribery and second-degree rewarding official misconduct following a two-week trial, Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah announced. Jimenez faces a sentence ranging from a conditional discharge to the maximum sentence.

Between November 2014 and August 2017, Jimenez paid a school district maintenance employee over $5,000 to ensure district-related maintenance projects were awarded to a company Jimenez owned, RJ Summit Services, Inc., and approve each invoice Jimenez sent to the district. When the district paid RJ Summit Services, Jimenez kicked back portions of the payment to the district employee in cash and checks made out from another company.

The district employee, Jorge Barreiros, pleaded guilty in December 2019 to second-degree corrupting the government and third-degree bribe receiving. His sentencing is still pending.

The district attorney’s office’s Investigations Division launched its inquiry in 2017 after being contacted by Chappaqua school officials and Johnson Controls, Inc. Jimenez was also an employee of Johnson Controls, Inc., a vendor to the district.

“Bribery and kickback schemes like this one take money out of the hands of hardworking public employees and everyday workers and this kind of corruption won’t be tolerated here in Westchester,” Rocah said in a statement. “I thank the Chappaqua Central School District and Johnson Controls, Inc. for alerting the district attorney’s office of this fraudulent activity so justice can be served.”

Jimenez is scheduled to be sentenced Nov 29. The case is before Judge David Zuckerman in Westchester County Court and is being prosecuted by Deputy Bureau Chief Brian Fitzgerald.

Bear Sightings Reported Near Chappaqua Crossing Last Weekend

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle police received several calls last Saturday morning of a black bear sighting in the vicinity of Roaring Brook Road near Chappaqua Crossing, but there were no reports of interactions with humans.

A Nixle alert was sent out by the police department at 10:35 a.m. advising the public of the sightings as well as tips on how to avoid interaction with bears, said Sgt. Daniel Maldonado. He said that there were multiple calls in a short period of time before the alert was posted.

It was not believed that the animal had entered the former Reader’s Digest property and no further calls were received following the alert, police said. It is possible that the bear went back into the woods to get away from people, Maldonado said.

“They’re really looking for a food source,” he said.

Police listed the state Department of Environmental Conservation recommended precautions to avoid contact with bears.

1. Do not feed bears under any circumstances.
2. Clean up areas around garbage cans and do not put garbage outside overnight. Put garbage out only on pick-up days.
3. Bird feeders attract bears and are often torn down by the animals. Take down or clean up all feeders, including hummingbird feeders, for several weeks following a bear visit.
4. Feed pets in the house and clean up all leftover pet food.
5. If a resident has had a bear problem, stop cooking outside on your grill, clean it up and store it in a bear-proof area for a couple of weeks.
6. Stop adding refuse to your compost pile. If it is located close to the house, it should be moved as far away as possible.
7. Bears have an extraordinary sense of smell. If you store pet food, fish food or any other items that might appeal to a bear under an open shed or in a wooded shed, remove it to a secure location.

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Happy Labor Day
Mt. Kisco Weighs Delaying Summer Ban for Gas Leaf Blowers Until 2023

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Kisco officials are considering a revision to a key piece of the village’s proposed leaf blower legislation that would delay the phase-out of the gas-powered machines during the summer months until 2023.

Mayor Gina Picinich said the postponement of the summer prohibition for an additional year is to give residents and landscaping businesses that have relatively new gas-powered equipment the time to start making the transition to electric or battery-operated blowers.

When originally proposed in April, the village had planned on instituting the summer ban on two-stroke gas-powered engines by next summer if the legislation was approved this year. Those machines will still be permitted to be used from Oct. 1 through April 30 through 2024 to allow residents to clean during the fall leaf season and in spring.

In May, the Village Board tweaked the dates that the gas-powered machines could be used until the gas blowers are phased out in a few years, adding the final two weeks of September.

Picinich said the feedback the board received is that the two-stroke gas blowers have about a three- to five-year lifespan, so it would provide homeowners and commercial landscapers the opportunity to start changing their existing equipment during the next year-and-a-half and replacing them with electric or battery-operated machines.

“So this provides them the opportunity to start immediately, to start making these purchases,” Picinich said. “So at the very least, some of their equipment will be able to be electric so they will continue to do the job that they do.”

However, a couple of residents who have urged officials to approve leaf blower regulations said they were disappointed that the board was considering the delay for another year, should the legislation be approved in 2021. Lilian Burgler, who joined Trustee Peter Grunthal in April to pitch the regulations to the rest of the Village Board, said that several municipalities are making second rounds of revisions to strengthen their existing regulations. Mount Kisco shouldn’t be delaying when the gas-powered blowers have such negative environmental and health consequences, she said.

Furthermore, there are landscaping companies that want to modernize, and would not experience a serious hardship, Burgler added. The current situation wrongly frames the issue as a pro-business versus a pro-environment fight.

“I would really like to ask and really beg the board to please consider instituting the summer ban as soon as feasible,” Burgler said. “This law should have been passed decades ago. This delay is unacceptable. It fails the citizens of Mount Kisco.”

Conservation Advisory Council Chairman John Rhodes also urged the board to reconsider the delay on the summer ban for another year.

“There’s little benefit for the residents of Mount Kisco,” Rhodes said. “It literally means that the residents will have to put up with another summer of noise and air pollution.”

Two-stroke machines are considered the worst alternative for people’s health and the environment. It is the most toxic pollution. It is the most toxic oil for people’s health and the environment fight.

Rhodes urged the board to reconsider the delay on the summer ban for another year.

“The delay on the summer ban is being written into the legislation and will be included when the public hearing resumes in September.

Under the current proposal, landscapers and other commercial outfits would be able to use the gas-powered blowers from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Businesses would not be allowed to use the machinery on Sundays and holidays.

Residents would be able to operate their leaf blowers from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.

There would be no limits on electric leaf blowers.

More than two leaf blowers being operated simultaneously will be prohibited on less than two acres.

Violators would face fines of $75 to $1,000.

Mt. Kisco Weighs Delaying Summer Ban for Gas Leaf Blowers Until 2023
Obituaries

Irving Farber

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Irving O. Farber, longtime resident of Mount Kisco and Bedford, who passed away on Aug. 22 at age 79.

He was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Sept. 19, 1941, and moved to New York as a young child. He graduated from Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1968. He excelled as a trial attorney for over 50 years. During his career, he litigated and tried hundreds of cases involving defamation, explosion cases, medical malpractice, airline deregulation claims, legal malpractice, elder law and guardianship matters. Over the years, he authored multiple articles in various legal publications and lectured extensively on trial practice.

He served his community in Mount Kisco as a volunteer fireman with the Independent Fire Co. for 14 years and served as a former engineer, member of the Bylaws Committee and a member of the 9/11 Memorial Committee, creating a granite monument fountain and park in Mount Kisco honoring firefighters and all those who lost their lives on that fateful day.

Irving was a longtime member of the Northern Westchester Hospital Ethics Committee, which he contributed from an attorney’s point of view and as a member of the community. Irv was recognized as Man of the Year by the Hispanic Democrats of Westchester and was inducted into the Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Irving married his wife, Jean Mamlin Farber, on Nov. 25, 1978. They were blessed to share almost 43 years of marriage and beautiful memories.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his devoted son, Brian, adored daughter Lauren (Sean Kelly) and precious twin grandsons Andrew and Patrick Kelly who were the pride of his life. Irv is also survived by his two sisters, Sarah (Ted Hawkins) and Marge Saberg, sister-in-law Bonnie Kupper and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral was held at Temple Shaaray Tefila in Bedford on Aug. 25. Irv will have a fireman’s funeral where he will have his last ride on the fire truck from the temple through the Village of Mount Kisco to Oakwood Cemetery, followed by lunch at the Independent Fire House. Shiva was at the family’s home in Mount Kisco.

William Hershfield

William W. Hershfield of Port Orange, Fla, passed away peacefully at home on Aug. 10. He was 85.

He was the son of the late Dr. Barnet and Beatrice Hershfield and was born on May 30, 1936, (the real Memorial Day) in New York City and grew up in Riverdale. His residences included Croton-on-Hudson, Yorktown Heights, Montrose and he retired to Port Orange in 1991.

Bill graduated from Brooklyn Tech High School, SUNY Albany, Siena and New York University where he obtained a master’s degree. During his career as an educator, Bill worked at Hudson High School as a social studies teacher, at Croton-Harmon Middle School as a guidance counselor and psychologist, taught English to foreign-born students to obtain citizenship and had a private psychology practice.

Bill was married to the love of his life, Myra, for 61 years. He was a devoted husband, loving, caring father, grandpa and Grampy. He was predeceased by his parents; his brother and wife, Bernard (Sondra) Hershfield; and his son-in-law, Josh Daar. He leaves behind three children, Sheri (Josh) Daar, Michael J. (Rossalie) Hershfield and Joanne Iadarola; three grandchildren, Rivka (James) Kinzer, Jacob, and wife, Bernard (Sondra) Hershfield and Michael D. (Adriana) and Nicholas (Jenny) Hershfield; great-grandfather to Hannah and Naomi Kinzer and Rose Daar; and lifelong friends to Ron and Linda Fiore.

Bill gave his service as EMT to the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps in Yorktown Heights for 20 years, holding many titles, including captain, was a member of the Knights of Pythias and coached girls’ softball.

As an avid sports fan, Bill enjoyed ice hockey (New York Rangers), baseball (New York Mets and Chicago Cubs), football, golf and college basketball (Hartford and UConn).

Bill loved his family with all his heart and especially loved celebrating birthdays together. Among his greatest pleasures were long walks on the beach, swimming and watching the ducks at the pond. His love for history, and World War II in particular, took him around the world to Israel, Europe, Egypt, China and South America. Amsterdam, the beaches of Normandy, Las Vegas and Biloxi, Miss. were among his favorite destinations.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital (www.stjude.org), the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps (www.yvac.net), The Jewish Federation of Volusia & Flagler Counties (jewishfederationdaytona.org) or the Port Orange Fire Department.

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Taghkanic Chorale Welcomes New Singers for its 55th Season

The Taghkanic Chorale invites singers to kick off the 2021-22 concert season with the Bach “Magnificat” and Vivaldi’s “Gloria.” (RV 588)

Rehearsals begin Tuesday, Sept. 7 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, located at 2880 Crompond Rd. (Route 202) in Yorktown Heights. The church is located near the Route 202 exit off the Taconic Parkway.

Rehearsals are open during the month of September with no obligation to join the chorale. Rehearsals are fun and educational with a focus on disciplined musicianship and collegiality.

Concert performances will be held on Dec. 11 and 12.

With the recent rise of COVID cases, singers’ health is of supreme concern. Our plans include:

• Wearing masks in our rehearsals. While we all enjoy singing without masks, this will comply with the suggestions from the Centers for Disease Control and New York State for indoor activities such as ours. Once guidelines change, we can revisit this.

• Live-streaming rehearsals for those uncomfortable with an in-person experience, or who are not feeling well.

The Taghkanic Chorale is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization that serves enthusiastic singers and concertgoers from throughout the lower Hudson Valley. For more information, call Deborah J. May at 917-848-3764 or visit www.taghkanicchorale.org.
Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Aug. 17: Patrols responded to a dispute inside of a commercial establishment on Croton Point Avenue between a customer and owner at 12:31 p.m. The owner requested the customer leave the establishment. The customer reported being pushed by another customer and was not pleased because he was complying with exiting the establishment. After conducting an investigation, the situation was resolved and no arrest was made.

Aug. 17: Report of people swimming in the park after hours on Tresudse Avenue at 7:45 p.m. The parties were located and they were fishing, not swimming. They were warned and admonished. While patrol was at the location, they noticed a village resident in need of medical assistance, which was unrelated to the call. The party was transported to the hospital by Croton EMS.

Aug. 19: Patrols responded to Brook Street at 10 p.m. to assist a village resident who had locked the keys inside their vehicle. Patrols gained entry without incident.

Aug. 20: Report of an unattended backpack on the bridge on Croton Point Avenue over the railroad tracks at 3:13 p.m. The area was checked with negative results.

North Castle Police Department

Aug. 21: Caller reported an injured bicyclist was struck by a motor vehicle near the Summit Club on Bedford Road at 10:17 a.m. The call was successfully transferred to 60 Control. The responding officers reported that the injured party was transported to Westchester Medical Center.

Aug. 23: A CVS employee reported at 1:36 p.m. a larncy of goods from the pharmacy on Main Street that occurred about 15 minutes in the past. The responding officer reported that deposits were secured; a report will follow.

Aug. 25: A Cedar Hill Road resident reported at 6:41 a.m. that two vehicles were stolen out of the driveway overnight. The responding officer reported that deposits were secured along with surveillance. A report will follow.

Yorktown Police Department

Aug. 25: Police were dispatched on Aug. 24 to Heights Drive on a report of a subject breaking into a vehicle. An individual was located walking on the road with a miniature baseball bat in hand at 12:09 a.m. this date. Following an investigation, Raymond Nunez, 49, of Yonkers, was charged with three counts of criminal mischief for damaging multiple vehicles with the bat. During the investigation, a vehicle drove up to officers on the scene and stopped in the roadway. Carlos Ponce, 40, of Yonkers, was charged with driving while intoxicated.

Preserving a Gem

State Sen. Peter Harckham, left, enjoyed a recent visit to Rockefeller State Park Preserve, where he announced that the Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Inc. are receiving a $60,000 state grant to fix the Overlook Trail and carriage roads near Swan Lake. Joining him were preserve manager Peter Iskenderian and George Gumina and Evelyn Hadad, president and vice president of the Friends, respectively. Harckham saw a monarch butterfly release, which was overseen by the preserve’s monarch ambassadors, Shayla and Hailey Schott. The 2022 New York State budget included $110 million in new capital spending for state parks and another $7 million for operations.

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*NO COLLECTIONS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th LABOR DAY

RECYCLING

DUAL-STREAM
RECYCLING COLLECTIONS:
Monday collections will be picked up on Tuesday, September 7th
Tuesday collections will be picked up on Wednesday, September 8th
All other collections will remain the same

KITCHEN TRASH COLLECTIONS

Monday
Collections will be picked up on:
Tuesday, September 7th

Tuesday
Collections will be picked up on:
Wednesday, September 8th
All other collections will remain the same

REMINDER: Recyclables in Plastic Bags will not be collected!

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th
7:30AM – 2:30PM (In front of Police Station)
Bring your obsolete computer, T.V., laptop, VCR, keyboard, cell phone, etc. Drop off bags filled with unwanted clothing, shoes, rags, towels, bed sheets, blankets, etc. Tires without rims can be dropped off for a $5.00/tire disposal fee

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Pocantico Lake is a Treasure That Should Not Be Developed

We thank The Examiner for Martin Wilbur’s comprehensive story last week, “Pocantico Lake Residents Gear Up for Development Fight.”

If you were on the Mount Pleasant Planning Board and meeting on Sept. 2, would you need to know more, or see more than the photo with the article, before deciding that the proposed 31-McMansion development would destroy the wooded shoreline and must never be built?

Couldn’t you just look at that photo, or stand on the shoreline and take your own cell photo, to know that the proposed development is egregious, arrogant, unseemly and would cause irreparable harm to the lake and our community?

It’s not just a local issue about a developer removing thousands of trees on a rare, pristine lake for lots of housing – and all of the environmental impacts that will roll off the rooftops, down the asphalt driveways, across the chemically fertilized lawns, down the steep, deforested hillside and into the water where herons and osprey feed on bass and sunfish.

There are key stakeholders beyond the narrow geographic confines of Pocantico Hills, who might, respectfully, want to share their expertise with you. A few come to mind:

*The Rockefeller State Park Preserve and Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Inc. know that all of the water from Pocantico Lake courses for miles and miles through the Preserve, helping to create that park’s signature magic.

*Riverkeeper undertakes monthly surveys of the water quality above and below the lake as part of its monitoring of Hudson River wetlands from upstate Troy to Battery Park.

It’s also true, if you are on the Planning Board, you don’t really need to become steeped in any of the urgent environmental and legal issues that inform and complicate this matter. Simply walk the shoreline with your dog, talk to the community here and marvel at an eagle perched on the developer’s shoreline.

Using only common sense, you might, with deep conviction, arrive at the conclusion that Pocantico Lake is an irreplaceable treasure in our community, and it’s worth preserving just as it is.

Bob Giordano
Founder/President
Yorktown Small Business
Association
Westchester Independent Business
Alliance

Pocantico Lake is a Resource for All of Westchester County

Thank you for featuring a story about the ill-advised proposal to site a 31-home subdivision on Pocantico Lake last week.

Your article left the impression that the opposition to the project consists entirely of homeowners residing close to the lake. This is not the case. The undersigned, for example, live five miles away in Tarrytown. We visit the lake regularly in summer because, in Westchester County, there is simply no other publicly owned park in such a beautiful, natural setting. In other words, our opposition to development near this rare environmental and recreational resource arises not from NIMBYism, but rather from sensible conservationism.

The lake is better understood as a unique county resource rather than a local one. The proposed development affects residents beyond the borders of the Town of Mount Pleasant, where the project proposal is currently pending.

For this reason, Westchester County should assume the role of lead agency for the project’s SEQR review to ensure a full environmental impact statement that considers the countywide social, recreational and environmental importance of Pocantico Lake.

Fred, Cathy and Margaret Ruhland-Mauhs
Tarrytown

Business Owners Should Remain Nonpartisan and Nonpolitical

The Yorktown Small Business Association/Westchester Independent Business Alliance is nonpartisan and nonpolitical, and so should you.

During these tough economic times, many businesses and community organizations are being asked to take a position by supporting a certain political party or candidate. It is selfish and unfair for political parties and candidates to put any group in a position where they feel pressured to make a choice.

Local businesses are operated by people who come from a variety of political persuasions, as do the customers upon whom they rely. The same is true of individuals who belong to one or more organizations or members of community organizations who also own a business. Pressuring either businesses or community organizations to post political signs, posters and brochures in their establishments could put them in a difficult position.

If your business or organization is approached by any political party or candidate to display signs, posters and brochures, just say no! But, if like many people, you feel obligated to do so, simply say yes! Say yes, to all parties and candidates by displaying opposing campaign literature, too.

Remember, don’t risk harming your business or organization by taking a stand that could cause shoppers, donors or clients to take their business elsewhere.

It’s hard enough running a business or organization without turning off half the electorate – and it’s the fair and equitable thing to do.

Do the right thing! Businesses and community organizations need to be inclusive, not exclusive.

Bob Giordano
Founder/President
Yorktown Small Business
Association
Westchester Independent Business
Alliance
Letters to the Editor

Sidewalk for Chappaqua's Douglas Road is Badly Needed

I am in favor of a sidewalk on Douglas Road. I live on Park Drive in Chappaqua, less than a mile from the train station. When I purchased my home, one of the selling points was that we could walk to the train. Today, many homes in my subdivision are sold with the promise that one could walk to the train.

Several of my neighbors own one car and do not take a parking spot at the station. In fact, my husband and I both commuted daily to the train before the shutdown and only took one spot.

We each walked in one direction so that we could more easily make our daily step goals and do our part to reduce the car congestion in town and the strain on our parking lot. Our walk takes us down a winding stretch of Douglas Road for about a quarter mile.

Walking down Douglas Road is the favored mode of transportation for many to get to the train station, Robert E. Bell Middle School and even the Saturday farmers market with stuffed animals and dogs in tow. The former owner of my home prided himself on walking to town daily from when he purchased the house in 1964, until he passed away. Longtime neighbors talk about how their children found their first bit of independence walking or biking as teens to Bell or to their first jobs as lifeguards at the pool club on Hardscrabble Road. Back then, Chappaqua was less populated, and the sleepy rural roads could safely accommodate many modes of transportation.

Today, we have more residents and busier lives. Car traffic has increased, making it more dangerous for the pedestrians that share Douglas Road with cars and bicycles. Our infrastructure has failed to keep up with this growth, making it more dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists on our local roads.

We need to add protected walking, and biking infrastructure so that our residents can enjoy the same freedom to walk and bike that past generations have in New Castle. I strongly support a sidewalk on Douglas Road so that the homes on Douglas, Park, Spring, Wynnewood, Dunbow, Martha, Begg and even Oak Hill and Elizabeth can continue to live up to their real estate billing as a “walk to the train.”

Jen Bounds

Democratic candidate for New Castle Town Board

Pocantico Lake Must Be Protected From Development

Pocantico Lake should be 100 percent preserved, as it was intended. Any development will totally ruin the lake and surrounding areas.

As a longtime Mount Pleasant resident, I have learned how the development of a cherished green space can go wrong. The green space near my home that was part of the Summit office park was leveled; 26 luxury homes (Summit Estates) now occupy the area. I hiked with my children there for years, and we walked our dog there until recently. We were informed while walking our dog through the subdivision that “this is private property; you can’t walk here.” There are signs posted, but we thought they pertained to solicitors. The gent went on to say he pays taxes of $50,000, and that entitles him to chase me from where I tread previously for 30 years.

Frank Leone

Hawthorne

Our National Anthem: Why is it Played?

- Revolutionary War: 4,435 died for our independence
- War of 1812: 2,260 died for our independence
- Indian Wars: 1,000 died for our independence
- Mexican War: 13,283 died for our independence
- Civil War: 498,332 died to save our Union.
- Spanish-American War: 2,446 died for our protection
- World War I: 116,516 died in The War to End All Wars
- World War II: 405,399 died making the world safe for democracy
- Korean War: 36,516 died in U.N. police action
- Vietnam War: 58,220 died advising and supporting South Vietnamese troops.
- Persian Gulf War: 1,565 died kicking Iraq out of Kuwait.
- Global War on Terror: 6,852 died in response to 9/11.

“...and they who for their Country-die, shall fill And they who for their Country-die, shall fill
An Honored Grave, an Honored Grave, For Glory lights the soldier’s tomb, and beauty weeps For Glory lights the soldier’s tomb, and beauty weeps the Brave.” the Brave.”

--Joseph Rodman Drake

Joe Pettit

Yorktown Heights
Alzheimer’s Association, Renegades Partner on Awareness

The Hudson Valley Renegades and the Alzheimer’s Association Hudson Valley Chapter are partnering to educate the community about Alzheimer’s disease during Alzheimer’s Awareness Evening to be held at the Sept. 10 game.

The same evening the Renegades, the high Class A affiliate of the New York Yankees, will host the Brooklyn Cyclones at 7 p.m. at Dutchess Stadium.

The $22 ticket package will include reserve seating and a Renegades hat. The Alzheimer’s Association will have a table at the game with staff on hand to talk about the organization’s programs, services and fundraisers.

“It is important for our Hudson Valley Renegades team to partner with organizations to make a difference in our community,” said Steve Gliner, president and general manager of the Renegades. “I am happy that we are able to support the Alzheimer’s Association to bring awareness to those impacted by this horrible disease.”

David Sobel, executive director of the Alzheimer’s Association Hudson Valley Chapter, said the organization is thrilled to partner with the Renegades.

“We want families affected by dementia to know we’re there for them as research continues to find a cure,” Sobel said. “We are looking forward to a fun and informative night at Dutchess Stadium.”

Some facts and figures about Alzheimer’s disease:
• An estimated 5.8 million Americans of all ages are living with Alzheimer’s dementia in 2019, including 200,000 under the age of 65.
• Without development of medical breakthroughs, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer’s dementia may nearly triple from 5.6 million to 13.8 million by 2050.
• Alzheimer’s is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., and it is the fifth leading cause of death for those age 65 and older.
• Total national cost of caring for those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias is estimated at $290 billion (not including unpaid caregiving) in 2019, of which $195 billion is the cost to Medicare and Medicaid; out-of-pocket costs represent $63 billion of the total payments, while other costs total $32 billion.
• More than 16 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer’s or other dementias.

Fans can help find a cure by participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s, held at more than 600 locations nationwide. The Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer’s will be held on Sunday, Oct. 3, at SUNY Purchase and the Dutchess/Ulster Walk will be held Saturday, Oct. 16, starting on the Highland side of the Walkway Over the Hudson.

The walks will be held in person, observing safety protocols, but participants can also choose to participate remotely at the locations of their choice.

More information about all five of the Hudson Valley’s walks is available at www.HudsonValleyWalks.org.

Putnam to Participate in Statewide STOP-DWI Labor Day Campaign

Putnam County Sheriff Robert L. Langley Jr., Town of Carmel Police Department Chief Anthony Hoffmann and Kent Police Department Chief Kevin Owens announced Monday that Putnam County police agencies and STOP-DWI coordinators will participate in special efforts to bring awareness to the dangers of impaired driving.

The statewide STOP-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign will run through Labor Day, Sept. 6. It is one of the busiest travel times of the year and marks the official end of summer. State police, county sheriffs, municipal law enforcement agencies and local STOP-DWI programs will collaborate across the state and will be out in force in this coordinated effort to reduce the number of impaired driving-related injuries and deaths.

The campaign is one of many statewide initiatives promoted by STOP-DWI NY and the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee. The statewide STOP-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign also targets Memorial Day, July 4th, Halloween, Thanksgiving, the end-of-year holiday season, Super Bowl weekend and St. Patrick’s Day.

Highly visible and highly publicized efforts such as the STOP-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign aim to reduce drunk and impaired driving incidents.

You can help make a difference by having a sober plan. Download our mobile app – “Have a Plan” – and you will always be able to find a safe ride home at www.stopdwi.org/mobileapp.

Impaired driving is completely preventable. All it takes is a little planning.

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The Nicholas Center for Autism debuted in Pleasantville earlier this year and already is expanding its space. The nonprofit organization moved into 175 Tompkins Ave., holding a grand opening in April hosted by then-Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul who cut the ribbon. The new, enlarged space in the center’s building triples the size of its Pleasantville operation.

Located on the first floor of the same building as the Westchester Table Tennis Center near the heart of downtown Pleasantville, The Nicholas Center is one block away from its partner organization, Spectrum Designs Foundation. Spectrum has been operating out of a renovated building at 199 Tompkins Ave. that officially opened its doors last year.

“The Nicholas Center for Autism and the Spectrum Designs Foundation share the same mission,” said Lee Anne Vetrone, director of development for The Nicholas Center. “Both organizations advocate helping people with autism lead productive lives.”

The Nicholas Center teaches and coaches clients a variety of job skills, offers work-readiness classes and helps launch microbusinesses. Spectrum Designs is an apparel enterprise, which prints and sells reflective vests for Metro-North and custom prints and stitches logos on a variety of items. Participants can learn these skills at The Nicholas Center and then work at Spectrum Designs down the street.

“They are wonderful,” Vetrone said of Waldner’s. “They are donating their services to develop our working space for maximum efficiency.”

Since becoming part of the Pleasantville community, many of the participants at The Nicholas Center have connected to and worked with other local nonprofit organizations.

“We have participants not only working on site but at a myriad of community organizations including the Pleasantville Food Pantry and the Pleasantville Community Garden,” said Vetrone.

The Nicholas Center’s Pleasantville space is an educational center offering academic classes, recreational programs and a health and wellness are equipped with a gym. Helping to design and organize the 175 Tompkins Ave. space is Waldner’s furniture in Manhattan.

The Nicholas Center’s staff supports pre-vocational training and jobs at its partner agency, Spectrum Designs Foundation. Designs were the recipients of the Workforce Development Initiative, a New York State grant that supports expanding apprenticeships and helps with long-term needs of growing industries. Vetrone said both The Nicholas Center and Spectrum Designs will be awarded $48 million for the second time through the state’s initiative.

Last year Spectrum Designs received $240,000 from a New York State Regional Economic Development Council grant that helped pay for the renovation. The new expanded space at The Nicholas Center is expected to open sometime this fall.
P’ville Chamber, Officials Undecided on Whether to Pursue Oktoberfest

By Abby Luby

The Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce is cautiously optimistic that a planned Oktoberfest for Saturday, Oct. 2 will be able to be held as local COVID-19 cases continue to spike.

The current plan is to close Wheeler Avenue to traffic in the afternoon and evening in the village’s downtown, which would allow patrons to stroll to restaurants and retail shops. Live music will likely be performed by local musicians and student groups.

Businesses have been invited to participate in the event but because of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 cases in Pleasantville, the chamber is being careful about whether to hold the planned street festival. When the organization started working on the event in June there was one active case in the village.

At last Monday’s Village Board meeting, Mayor Peter Scherer announced there were eight new positive COVID-19 cases and 34 active cases in Pleasantville.

“At the end of last week, the chamber reached out to village businesses and restaurants to see how many were interested in participating. The deadline for responses is this Wednesday. “If we decide to have Oktoberfest, businesses will have to be flexible the closer we get to the date in case we’re going to cancel,” Alvarez said. “That way they won’t purchase extra inventory, food or hire extra people.”

The idea for an Oktoberfest celebration was first proposed by Soul Brewing Company owner Allen Wallace last year but it had to be canceled when COVID-19 safety precautions declared by the Centers for Disease Control and the Westchester County Department of Health restricted the size of gatherings.

The plan for this year is to have the live music venue in the parking lot of Holy Innocents Church around the corner from Wheeler Avenue on Bedford Road. Discussions at the last two Village Board meetings revealed trustees were increasingly troubled with holding performances in a parking lot that could accommodate a large crowd.

Concerns include whether attendees would need to provide proof of vaccination, whether the church parking lot should be fenced in and the possibility of alcohol being bought and passed to an underage drinker.

“I personally, and other board members, are increasingly nervous about COVID,” Scherer said. “Not so much about the outdoor dining, but the concert venue. In August, the (COVID-19) numbers have been higher, and nobody wants to make it worse.”

The plan has since been scaled back with alternative settings for live music now being considered for Nonna Plaza near the corner of Wheeler and Manville Road and in front of the former Pleasantville Pharmacy, also on Wheeler Avenue.

“If enough businesses on Wheeler want to do it then we can move forward,” said Alvarez. “If those on Wheeler are not for it, we would cancel and hold the idea for next year.”

The Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce is trying to organize an Oktoberfest celebration on Wheeler Avenue for Oct. 2 but it is unclear whether COVID-19 cases or a lack of interest will derail the effort.
Westchester Orthopedic Surgeon Says Health Care is Social

By Bailey Hosfelt

Dr. Howard J. Luks, an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in sports medicine, believes that because human beings are social, health care, by extension, is as well.

“Each injury or issue has its own personality,” Luks said. “A certain issue in a knee in an ultramarathoner or cyclist is going to present itself differently than someone who leads a much more sedentary life.”

Looking not just to an MRI finding but also to the patient’s lifestyle and the pain they’re experiencing, Luks tries to operate on his patients only when all other options are exhausted and it is entirely necessary.

“You need to paint a complete picture, and you need to listen to people to understand how it is impacting them,” he said.

Luks noted that because health care is one of the largest industries and drivers of gross domestic product in the United States, many physicians operate exclusively on MRI findings.

“(Surgeons) make more money by operating on someone than they will from telling them that they don’t need anything done,” Luks said. “But I think it’s very important to let people know that a lot of these findings are actually age-appropriate findings, likely not a cause of their pain and, more often than not, don’t require an operation.”

Because almost all of the issues Luks deals with regarding sports medicine aren’t life-threatening, providers and patients have time to make a decision about whether surgery is the right option.

“We definitely need to be cautious and careful,” Luks said. “We need to digest all the information available, and, as patients, we need to seek second or even third opinions if necessary.”

A trail endurance runner and amateur cyclist himself, Luks works with many patients who are a part of various running groups in the region, of which he is also a member.

“Once you start to get a name and a reputation in those communities, you tend to see a lot more of them, and it’s great,” Luks said. “I love working with runners, cyclists and people who are very motivated to return to optimal health.”

Throughout his 25-year career as an orthopedist, Luks has returned many athletes to the playing field and replaced more knees than he can count.

However, Luks highlights that he’s also passionate about helping patients, and sometimes entire families, improve their health with simple lifestyle modifications.

“In doing so, Luks helps patients understand what is going on in their bodies as they age, and what improvements they can make.

“There are those now the biggest success stories in my practice,” Luks said. “That being said, if I can get a 50-year-old runner back out on the trails with a complex procedure and they do well, that’s also very enlightening to me.”

Growing up, Luks was an avid athlete who learned his way around an orthopedist’s office with injuries.

“I was in an orthopedist’s office more than my pediatrician’s office,” Luks said.

The experience, coupled with observing orthopedic surgeons while training in medical school, inspired Luks to take up the specialty.

“It seemed like a natural fit,” Luks said.

Luks has been named one of the top sports medicine physicians in the United States by U.S. News & World Report. He has also been named one of the Top 10 “Social Health Makers” for Osteoarthritis, one of Twitter’s top 10 doctors, one of the top sports medicine physicians in New York for nearly 10 years in a row and served as an advisory board member of the Mayo Clinic Center for Social Media for three years.

Dr. Howard J. Luks

Dr. Luks’ website, https://www.howardluksmd.com, where he posts blogs and educational materials about shoulder, knee and elbow injuries, has garnered a global reach, with 6,000 to 8,000 new visits every day.

As a result, Luks often gets calls from individuals across the United States and sometimes internationally. Through these consultations, Luks helps refer individuals to local orthopedists who can help carry out their care.

“By putting my information and articles out on social media and by having an evidence-informed website, I hope to give people beyond the four walls of my practice a very clear understanding of what these issues are all about, how they may or may not impact your life and what their true treatment options are,” he said.

After many years at Westchester Medical Center, Luks is now at Symphony Medical, located at the St. John’s Riverside Hospital Dobbs Ferry Pavilion.

Luks works alongside a team of physicians and nurse practitioners who specialize in addiction medicine, emergency medicine, OB/GYN, hospital medicine and general surgery.

He underscored that the staff at Symphony Medical is like a close-knit family, working hard together every day.

“We discuss how to make things better for people, better for patients, easier to schedule, easier to get through,” Luks said. “And it’s working very well.”
The Magic of Water: Just Turn the Spigot, and Poof

Don’t think that I’m weird, but one of my favorite movies is Disney’s “Enchanted.” The animated fairytale princess finds herself banished to real-life Manhattan, and one of her first discoveries of modern life is the magical waterfall when she turns on a spigot in the shower. Where does the water come from, she asks her host?

From the pipes, she is told. But where do the pipes get it, she then asks?

When you turn on that faucet in your kitchen or bathroom without a thought as to where the pipes get it, you can know that the water you enjoy represents centuries of sophisticated engineering from the time of the Egyptians and Romans. The latter civilization developed the first underground aqueduct in 312 BC, which created the fundamental design for the construction of our own Croton Aqueduct, completed in 1842 and stretching 40 miles from the Croton River Dam to New York City.

The odyssey of our water supply begins with the streams and lakes in the Croton watershed, the Catskills or in the Delaware system, where water collects into the 19 reservoirs in the New York City system. From the reservoirs, water travels via the aqueducts and through our communities in mains that are as large as 17 feet in diameter.

At the plant, the water is siphoned off by our local water departments and delivered to a local treatment plant in pipes that are 24 inches in diameter. Some treatment plants are shared by several towns.

At the plant, the water is filtered through a two-part process, which includes a sand filter, and certain protective elements are added to it. These include chlorine to kill organisms; fluoride to prevent tooth decay; and orthophosphate, a substance that coats pipes and keeps them from leaching lead into the drinking water.

Once treated, the water is sent on its way via pumps through pipes 12 to 16 inches in diameter to a water tower, usually 40 to 50 feet high and placed on a higher elevation. It is the release of water from these towers in pipes of similar diameter, and then in progressively smaller pipes, which builds the pressure, until it arrives from the street into our homes in a three-quarter-inch pipe.

There, it passes a meter that registers the home’s consumption. Currently most meters are read individually but such old meters will eventually be replaced with automatic reading technology.

In my last single-family home (I live in a condo now where I don’t have to worry about my water source), I know my meter was checked regularly because I received a call from the town Water Department soon after I filled my pool and was asked if my system should be checked for a leak.

From the meter, the water travels to our bathrooms and kitchens for our toilets, shower and tubs.

Putnam County operates somewhat differently for its lesser requirements for municipal water, with its own series of reservoirs that comprise the Croton watershed. Towns like Brewster and Southeast, for instance, take their water from their own reservoirs.

Today, only Ossining gets its water from the Old and New Croton Aqueducts, which supply only 10 percent of New York City’s water today.

According to my research, our municipal water has a strict daily testing schedule, which obviously bottled water does not, and it enjoys a great reputation for taste. In my past professional pursuits, I would sometimes dine out or host tastings with food and restaurant critics. While hosting a tasting some years ago for the inimitable food and restaurant critic Gael Greene, I was delighted when she declined bottled water in favor of “plain old New York City water. It’s the best!”

Fearing more water for our community than we may want from the remnants of Hurricane Ida this week, I’ll enjoy a great tasting glass of water directly from the tap, followed by a nice hot shower in soft water with great pressure, not even thinking twice about where the pipes get it.

Bill Primavera, while a writer and public relations practitioner, is also a realtor associated with Williams Raveis Real Estate, To engage the talents and services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.
Family Days and Date Nights at the Yorktown Grange Fair

Finding an activity that the whole family can agree on is a challenge. The same goes for deciding where to go to eat or even for something new for a date.

From Sept. 10-12, the Yorktown Grange Fair has solved that problem. During the day, Westchester County’s only true country fair is full of fabulous activities that kids and adults will love. The food options are plentiful and varied and the evenings are built for fun.

Ride tickets are reasonably priced, with wristband specials. Friday wristbands are only $25 for an evening of fun, while on Saturday and Sunday, the all-day bands will have you riding from open to close for only $30.

But the Grange Fair is much more than rides. Once everyone has had their fill of twisting, tilting and whirling, be sure to take time to enjoy the contests and exhibits. You’ll love the livestock exhibits and shows, the LEGO exhibit and the beautiful handcrafted items on display. The annual tractor parade is always a hit, and don’t miss the canine agility demonstrations, bubble gum blowing contest and the rubber chicken throwing contest. Adding a little music to the mix, fair favorite kids’ entertainers Beth & Scott and Friends return to the fair on Saturday for two shows, one at 11 a.m. and another at 1 p.m.

The fun of the fair isn’t just for children, so plan on coming to the Grange Fair with your favorite date. Start by taking a ride on the Ferris wheel for a birds-eye view of the festivities. Grab a beer and some food. Take in the photography exhibit and see a horse-riding demonstration. If you love live shows, the concert lineup is sure to please. The main stage comes alive in the evenings. No Options, the Dude of Life Band and River of Dreams will delight rock fans, Phish Phans and Billy Joel lovers. Add a little hilarity to the mix by participating in the Tipsy Waiter Relay or demonstrate your skill in the nail driving contest.

There will be fun activities, delicious food and great rides for everyone at the Yorktown Grange Fair, scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 10-12.

The annual tractor parade is always a hit, and don’t miss the canine agility demonstrations, bubble gum blowing contest and the rubber chicken throwing contest. Adding a little music to the mix, fair favorite kids’ entertainers Beth & Scott and Friends return to the fair on Saturday for two shows, one at 11 a.m. and another at 1 p.m.

With so many activities, it will take some effort to make time for food but make it a priority because the Grange Fair selections are top-notch. Kids will love all the normal fair fare, and with quesadillas, hot dogs, French fries, ice cream, funnel cakes and candy apples, there will be more than enough to get them through the day. But you don’t have to settle for the ordinary. Enjoy craft beer selections from Hopwood Handles, wood-fired pizza from Five Alarm Pizza and savory Puerto Rican specialties. Bab’s Baking will be on hand to provide yummy goodies to tempt everyone with a sweet tooth.

The price is right for family fun and for fabulous dates: $10 per car $5 for single riders and walk-ins. Children under the age of 2 are free.

The 2021 Yorktown Grange Fair will be held at the Grange Fairgrounds, 99 Moseman Rd. in Yorktown Heights. The fair is open on Friday, Sept. 10 from 4 to 11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is the perfect weekend activity that everyone can agree on.

For more information, visit https://yorktowngrangefair.org. We can’t wait to see you out and about at the fair!
Hoff-Barthelson Announces New Music Class Offerings for All Ages

Hoff-Barthelson Music School will launch its 2021-22 school year by offering exciting new classes for all ages and resuming in-person delivery of most of its programs – including lessons, classes, and ensembles – following an immaculate safety record during last school year and the 2021 summer session.

Students wishing to continue private lessons and perform online may do so; additionally, the school has installed two state-of-the-art smart classrooms so that students may continue to participate in online music classes as well.

Over the past year, the school has developed and refined rigorous safety protocols and, with generous support from the Scarsdale Foundation, made major investments in its HVAC systems. It has also just announced that 100 percent of its staff and faculty are fully vaccinated.

“We are excited to be resuming our full range of ensembles, classes and lessons for students of all ages on campus this fall,” said Executive Director Ken Cole. “At the same time, we are redoubling our efforts to ensure that all in-person activities are conducted safely. I encourage everyone in our community with an interest in music education to visit www.hbms.org to review our newly-revised campus-wide safety plan.”

There will be exciting new offerings in the early childhood, K-12 and adult divisions. Cole said.

Group guitar classes. For students from four years old through adult, it provides opportunities for students to enjoy making music together, engage in group discussion and support one another. For the youngest learners, group classes are an ideal way to prepare for private instruction.

Chamber music. For intermediate and advanced youth and adults, chamber music instruction has always been an important part of Hoff-Barthelson’s program over the school’s 77-year history. Members of the New York Philharmonic visit annually to lead master classes for students enrolled in the chamber music program.

This fall, Hoff-Barthelson is excited to announce a new Piano Ensemble Program within the school’s larger Chamber Music Program. The Piano Ensemble Program, held in the state-of-the-art piano lab, is for intermediate to advanced piano students who would like to develop ensemble and sightreading skills as well as enjoy the social and emotional benefits of participating in music-making with others.

The school will also introduce new Advanced Track Musicianship (ATM) classes tailored for students from upper elementary school through high school with an avid desire to develop a comprehensive understanding of music theory. For adult learners seeking to develop a strong foundation in music theory, an Adult Music Theory and Ear Training Bootcamp in partnership with the Scarsdale Adult School will be offered.

The Adult Handbell Class welcomes new members starting Oct. 1. Playing handbells is a wonderful way for adult amateur musicians of all levels to make beautiful music together.

Hoff-Barthelson’s unique comprehensive program for students at all stages of development combines individual lessons on more than 20 instruments and voice with regular access to professional accompaniment, musicianship classes, myriad performance opportunities, an ensemble program featuring orchestras, choruses, chamber groups and jazz ensembles and written performance critiques and progress reports.

The tiered pricing structure introduced last year, which ties prices to levels of utilization within the comprehensive program, remains in effect as does the newly expanded financial aid program available to families with incomes up to four times New York State’s Reduced Price Lunch eligibility levels. This includes families whose incomes have been temporarily impacted by the pandemic.

Hoff-Barthelson will be hosting open houses for the Chamber Music and Piano Ensembles Program, the Suzuki Program, the Youth Orchestra Program and the Early Childhood and Adult Divisions in September. Masks, social distancing, adherence to the school’s fall safety guidelines and RSVP are required for all in-person event participants.

Learn more about these events and RSVP by visiting https://hbms.org/news/fall-open-houses-and-orientation-sessions/ or by calling 914-723-1169 or e-mailing hb@hbms.org.

The new school year begins Sept. 8. Enrollment is ongoing throughout the year. For additional information, visit www.hbms.org, call 914-723-1169 or e-mail registration@hbms.org.
New Fitness Studio to Open in Downtown Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

If you're still leery of going to a large gym due to COVID-19 or just want more privacy or personal instruction, there's a new fitness center in the area to try.

Sam Gomes is opening G-Fit Training & Health Solutions in downtown Chappaqua this Monday, his first effort as an entrepreneur after working for about eight years as a certified personal trainer.

With the pandemic persisting over the past 18 months, Gomes reasoned that there would be plenty of local residents who would want to work on their fitness without the uneasiness of exerting in crowded quarters.

His roughly 5,000-square-foot North Greeley Avenue studio will cater to people's individual schedules and training needs, he said.

“It seems that most people are doing Zoom training, in-home training, at a park,” said Gomes, who is also a corrective exercise specialist, a precision nutrition Level 1 coach and Titleist Performance Institute certified. “In general, I’ve noticed that the whole industry seems to be kind of moving away from bigger gyms because you don’t know who’s in there, what their habits are. Are they washing their hands? Are they vaccinated? So I kind of took all of that into account and part of it was like a following to hire a couple trainers. Gomes learned of the vacant space on North Greeley Avenue and reasoned that it was centrally located for him to draw on Chappaqua and neighboring communities.

For the first few months, Gomes plans to train clients on his own. He hopes by the end of the year he will have gained enough of a following to hire a couple trainers. Gomes is also looking to eventually add a physical therapist and perhaps a message therapist to his operation as well.

At some point, small group classes of up to eight participants are likely to be offered, but the demand will help shape the schedule, he said.

“My goal was to see where the people’s wants are,” Gomes said. “If they’re like I’m really looking for a high-intensity interval class, we’ll open up a spot for it.”

Gomes is also developing various packages for those who want to come once or twice a week and those who need more frequent training.

G-Fit Training & Health Solutions is located at 75 N. Greeley Ave. in Chappaqua. For more information, call 914-623-8684 or visit www.gfittraining.com.
As a beautiful late summer day and we took a drive up I-684. Our destination: Ace Endico Marketplace in Brewster.

Ace Endico, founded some four decades ago by William Endico and Murray Hertzberg, has become a major wholesale food supplier and distributor to the food service and hospitality industry in the tri-state area. You may have noticed their colorful trucks over the years delivering goods throughout the region.

I enjoy alternative shopping experiences, and this was another opportunity. Ace Endico is open to the public, so on this day we decided to shop like restaurants do. We had been hearing about it through the grapevine.

Pulling up to their 200,000-square-foot main distribution warehouse was awesome. Trucks were busy loading with supplies for delivery. The retail marketplace is on the side of the facility and offers plenty of parking.

We got a shopping cart and once inside starting combing through the aisles. They were well-stocked with assorted merchandise: fruit and produce, meat and seafood, frozen foods, gourmet items, olive oils, pastas, imported goods, paper goods and more. Shoppers would be hard-pressed to find some of the products and merchandise anywhere else. You can easily locate many of the items listed on their website.

While most products were packaged in larger quantities for wholesale buyers, there were also plenty of goods sold in smaller sizes. You could pick your own fruits and vegetables, for example. You might consider forming a shopping group with friends and family and share. The best part is that many products were reasonably priced compared to mainstream markets. The staff were very helpful with our questions, too.

By the time we got to checkout, we had filled our cart with more than anticipated, and that was okay. We have since been enjoying the larder.


**Hearty Tavern Fare at Squire's**

Always on the lookout for a solid vintage tavern, I pulled into the busy strip mall on North State Road, just off Route 9A, for a visit to Squire's of Briarcliff. Proprietor Kurt Knox, his family and staff have been serving patrons since 1967. No easy task in this business, for sure, and when I entered the bar and lounge area for the first time I was made to feel right at home. That’s one mark of longevity, and that’s the way it should be in the hospitality trade.

Why do I enjoy old venues like Squire’s? The place has character and stories. Chat with staff and patrons and you often get stories filled with all the local color. A little history to go with the memorabilia on the bar and dining room walls.

In the case of Squire’s, I recall hearing of their award-winning burgers year after year. So that’s what I wanted on this visit. I zeroed in on the Squire’s Burger topped with bacon and cheese and served on a soft bun with a mountain of fries. Their basic burger probably has not changed in years and has withstood the test of many palates over time. Mine, too, I am pleased to report. It was a retro-delish indulgence.

I came back a couple of weeks later to check out more of the menu. There are a lot of choices with no pushing of the culinary envelope. Familiar options with built-in appeal. On this visit, I decided on their steak sandwich – short rib, sauteed onions and cheese with onion rings on the side. My companion ordered the fish and chips with fries. Both were large orders and were served with the appropriate condiments and dipping sauces. The dishes saturated our hunger big time. We had enough to take home for snacking the next day.

I did notice prime rib listed on the menu, but that will have to wait. Not too many restaurants serve it these days. By the time we left on this early Saturday evening, the place was filling up inside and out on the patio. The phones were ringing consistently for take-out and delivery, too.

Squire’s of Briarcliff is located at 94 N. State Rd. in Briarcliff Manor. Open daily. Free parking. Info: 914-762-3376 or visit www.squiresbriarcliff.com.

**Goosefeather Reopens in Tarrytown**

Chef and restaurateur Dale Talde and Goosefeather are back. Talde had made a big name for himself in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with his take on pan-Asian cuisine. After closing for a time during the pandemic, his newly formed restaurant group updated Goosefeather at the lovely Tarrytown House Estate. The eatery specializes in Cantonese- and Hong Kong-inspired cuisine, including dim sum. Sounds exciting! Always on the lookout for good Asian restaurants around Westchester.

For information, visit www.goosefeatheryerry.com. 

**DeCicco to Open in Sleepy Hollow**

This innovative food market chain has really been growing throughout Westchester and Putnam counties. Construction on their 11th 30,000-square-foot operation is about to get underway in Sleepy Hollow at the site of the Edge-on-Hudson development, which formerly housed the GM plant. Plans are for the store to open by early next year. For more information, visit www.deciccoandsons.com.

**Processing Fees to Your Restaurant Bill?**

Have you double checked your dining bill lately? Some restaurants have been adding what they call a “processing fee” or “convenience fee” to the final charge. It’s not much, but what is it for? Some owners say it goes toward helping the staff, while others say it is meant to defray part of their credit card fees and rising costs.

While I fully empathize with all the difficulties the restaurant industry continues to experience, should this be the customer’s problem? Can a patron dispute the charge and refuse to pay? Can’t always carry a big load of cash around. Credit card companies should offer some slack, too.

What do you think?

For those of you celebrating, have a healthy and happy Rosh Hashanah. L’Shana Tova!

**Squire’s of Briarcliff**

Squire’s is one of the few restaurants to include prime rib on its menu.
Westchester County Seeks Nominations for Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

Do you know a senior who is making a positive difference in Westchester County through his or her professional life, volunteer work or both? If so, the county invites you to submit a nomination to the Westchester Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, now in its 39th year.

Department of Senior Programs and Services Commissioner Mae Carpenter said that the Seniors Hall of Fame is an important tradition because the senior community has helped Westchester to become known for its quality of life.

"Today’s older generation molded a way of life that reflects the caring and generosity of its people," she said. To be nominated, a person must be at least 60 years old and live in Westchester; made significant contributions to improve life in the county; be an outstanding leader or advocate; and have professional achievements that reflect innovative solutions to fulfill unmet community needs if the nomination is based on paid professional work. Past Hall of Fame inductees are not eligible.

All nominations will be reviewed by a judging committee and are due by Sept. 17. Forms may be obtained online at westchestergov.com/seniors. While an in-person celebration is once again not possible this year, every effort will be made to showcase the inductees in an exciting new medium. Those selected will be inducted during a multiplatform virtual event on Friday, Dec. 9. The community will be invited to view the event for free through the Westchester Public Private Partnership for Aging Services website at www.westchesterpartnership.org.

The Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, Westchester County Parks and the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services are hosting the gala.

Please submit your nominations online at westchestergov.com/seniors or if you prefer to mail your nomination, contact Rose Cappa at rose@theeventdepartmentny.com or at (914) 747-0519. Rose Cappa is also the contact to learn how to become a Senior Hall of Fame sponsor or to sponsor a particular honoree.

For additional information, call (914) 813-6300 or visit www.westchestergov.com/seniors.

WCC Awarded $50G for New Metallica Scholars Initiative

Westchester Community College (WCC) was selected from a competitive field of community colleges across the country to receive $50,000 to transform the future of students in the community.

Funded by the rock band Metallica’s All Within My Hands and led by the American Association of Community Colleges, the Metallica Scholars Initiative was designed to directly support students while also elevating the importance of career and technical education.

This work is highlighted at a global level by leveraging the influence of Metallica who continue to speak out on the dignity of professional trades and community colleges that prepare students. This is WCC’s second grant from the program, which last year helped more than 250 students receive training and professional certifications, increasing their employability.

The Metallica Scholars Initiative is now in its third year and has fundamentally improved the earning potential for students. WCC and Metallica will continue to “Rock the Workforce” by focusing this year’s grant on training skilled workers for Westchester’s growing advanced manufacturing industry. WCC will prioritize non-traditional students who are looking to re-enter or upskill in the workforce in advanced manufacturing fields.

At least 24 Metallica Scholars will receive curriculum and certifications to qualify for Manufacturing Skill Standards Council certifications or National Institute for Metalworking Skills certifications, leading to employment in middle skill positions. They will be showcased to promote varying skilled trade pathways to economic development.

“WCC is proud to partner again with Metallica’s All Within My Hands to develop a new generation of trained middle skills employees,” said WCC President Dr. Belinda Miles. “Companies look to WCC to train the advanced manufacturing workforce that helps drive our region’s economic engine. This generous grant will help us reach dozens of students who might otherwise never have recognized or reached their full potential.”

James Hetfield, Metallica’s vocalist/guitarist and co-founder said, “As a touring entity we are in direct involvement with multiple essential career choices along our path. From electrical, professional driving, culinary, mechanical maintenance, public safety, logistical organizers. And that just scratches the surface. Those, along with a multitude of other technical careers, make our touring and our performances possible. We are passionate and grateful to these trades and tradespeople.”

For more information on WCC’s 2021-22 Metallica Scholars Initiative, visit https://www.sunywcc.edu/about/foundation/fund-for-wcc/metallica-and-wcc-rock-the-workforce.
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HELP WANTED

Looking for Part time/Full time experienced office admin for family owned home improvement company in Croton-on-Hudson. Must have excellent phone skills, computer skills/social media knowledge, and MUST have quick books knowledge. Prior 3 years office experience. Must be willing to come into our office for a computer/quickbooks knowledge session as part of interview. Responsibilities and Duties: Answering phones, setting up estimates, typing estimates, entering invoices, bank reconciliations using quickbooks. Computer skills needed- social media input, outlook/microsoft word used, excel. Running light errands. Office is a showroom as well-family/house friendly environment to work in! Qualifications and Skills: High School education, 3 year previous office experience. Job Type: Part-time to Full-time, 9-4:30. Compensation: Based on experience, Salary negotiable. Job Type: Part-time. Pay: From $18.00 per hour. Reply to: Christine Ricci, Office Manager at 914 271-9119 or Att: Mary at miracleshome1@verizon.net

continued on page 24
Pre-dawn Sky Watching Brings Plenty of Wonder in September

We usually spend most of our time around here talking about the comings and goings of things in our nighttime skies. This month, I thought, it’d be fun to skip past the evenings’ prime time and look at the sky in the mornings, just before dawn.

I’ll be the first to admit there isn’t a lot of appeal to getting out of bed early to look at, well, anything. The truth is, a few times a year, I like to make myself an early cup of coffee and slip out into the pre-dawn darkness. There’s a certain calm that comes in the early morning solitude when the neighborhood and the skies belong to us alone. The last couple of weeks of summer are one of my favorite times to do it.

Let’s fast-forward through the night just as the calendar flips to September and look toward the south and southeast at around 5 a.m. There, on the 1st, the first thing we’ll notice is the moon. Do you notice anything unusual about it? It starts the month as a waning crescent, with its lighted left-hand side trailing behind it as it makes its way into morning. In just a few hours, once the stars are washed out by sunlight, we’ll see it arching above the roofs and trees, etched into the blue and hidden in plain sight.

I always find them a little off-putting and unsettling because they’re backward from what most of us are used to. It’s just before its “new” phase now. It’ll be back to “normal” in just a few days once the moon slides past the sun and reappears in the evening sky.

Widening our gaze, we’ll see our nearest neighbor is tangled among some familiar faces. These last weeks of summer also give us a sneak preview of Orion, Taurus and the rest of winter’s bright lights. Just above the horizon, we can see our old friend, the brilliant Sirius. Sirius, which is the brightest star just in our sky (other than the sun), is also the brightest in constellation Canis Major – the greater dog. So, it has the nickname “the Dog Star.” Ancient people believed that the heat from its reappearance in the morning’s skies added onto the sun’s and made the weather hotter than it’s been all through the summer. These last weeks of summer

Clear Skies

New Moon September 6
First Quarter September 13
Full Moon September 20
Last Quarter September 28

became called the “Dog Days.”

Over the years since, we’ve learned that this simply isn’t true. Sirius is a little over eight light years away. (A light year is about six trillion miles.) That’s so far that if you have a third-grader nearby, you can tell them that its light left for their eye right around when they were born. That’s very close as these things go, but 48 trillion miles is much too far for its heat to have any effect on our weather.

These stars are here now, but it’ll still be a few weeks before we see this full arrangement in the evenings. We’ll talk more about them then.

There’s something extraordinary about sitting alone and watching the skies before the birds wake up and the delivery trucks make their rounds. I hope you will this month. Clear skies, everyone!

Scott Levine (astroscoott@yahoo.com) is an astronomy writer and speaker from Croton-on-Hudson. He is also a member of the Westchester Amateur Astronomers, who are dedicated to astronomy outreach in our area. For information about the club including membership, newsletters, upcoming meetings and lectures at Pace University and star parties at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, visit westchesterastromoners.org. Star parties are free and open to the public.

Sports Injury Prevention Techniques for the Young Athlete

The end of summer marks the return of fall sports. For most of our local middle school and high school athletes, this year is more exciting because most sports were either altered or canceled last year due to COVID-19.

Since COVID-19’s onset, many different aspects of our lives have changed; however, because of safety precautions and protocols we are able to see some sense of normalcy with our youth teams returning this year. Currently, most of our schools are a few weeks into their preseasons, which is usually when we start to see the repetitive-stress and sports-related injuries begin to plague our teams.

About 62 percent of sports-related injuries occur during practice rather than in games. The most common types of injuries among young athletes are muscle strains, sprains, growth plate injuries and repetitive motion injuries. Our goal as health care providers is for our athletes to enjoy and excel healthfully in their sports participation. One way we promote this is through education, which can help to prevent many of these injuries.

The first way we can prevent injury is knowing and implementing a proper warmup, necessary prior to all participation, whether it be practice, training or competition. A warmup should consist of 5 to 10 minutes of aerobic activity such as jogging or skipping. In addition, starting with low-intensity sports, specific actions such as dribbling a soccer ball or light throwing along with short periods of dynamic stretching is important.

Begin slowly to increase your heart rate and skill development, then increase your intensity with more sport-specific skills and movement such as jumping, sprinting, bounding and cutting. These activities continue to add benefits by increasing blood flow, deep muscle temperatures and respiration rate.

Another essential component to injury prevention is making rest a part of an athlete’s week. Having an athlete understand the need for rest can prevent injuries throughout their entire season. Overloading the joints, muscles and tendons cause your body to break down. Adequate rest allows for the appropriate recovery between sessions along with encouraging long-term athletic participation.

Youth athletes should have at least one to two days off from any sport each week. Absolute rest is not recommended or necessary. Building in a day of dynamic stretching appears to be the best recovery mode to enhance performance and cardiorespiratory responses.

To help promote recovery and soft tissue mobility, self-massage techniques such as a foam roller or stick massager can be extremely beneficial to implement throughout the season. In addition, proper nutrition and hydration should be a major focus along with maximizing an athlete’s sleep. Sleep is one of the most important factors in recovery with 8 to 10 hours nightly. This will assist in an athlete’s adaptation to physical, neurological and emotional stresses of their training.

Finally, the best advice is to listen to your body. There is a fine line between soreness and pain from an injury. Athletes can, unwittingly or not, often cross this line. The advantage of understanding when pain is present and getting treatment at the start of an issue instead of trying to play catch up, helps keep an athlete’s time on the sidelines to an absolute minimum.

Our philosophy with physical therapy and athletic training is always to take care of the injury immediately and completely to prevent progression. It’s much better to miss a few days taking care of a small injury rather than having that small injury linger and progressing into a significant season-ending injury.

Whether you are an athlete, coach or parent, you can play an important role in ensuring a young athlete’s experience and success in sports. For everyone participating this fall, we wish you good luck and a great season!

Rachel Amarosa is a certified athletic trainer for ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic. She is the marketing and patient relations director for its three locations in Armonk, Pleasantville and Ardsley. For questions about this article or about ProClinix, Amarosa can be reached at 914-202-0700 or ramarosa@proclinix.com.
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Part Time Parks Laborer Position - The Village of Pleasantville Parks and Recreation Department is looking for part time parks laborers. Duties could include, but not limited to, garbage pickup, garden bed weeding, ball field maintenance, field prep, and more. Please contact the Village of Pleasantville Parks and Recreation Department, 914-769-7950.

The Village of Pleasantville’s Parks & Recreation Department is seeking eligible Group Leaders and Nurse/EMT for their 2021-2022 Panther Club program. Panther Club is an after school child care program that operates during the school year, Monday - Friday, from 2:45pm - 6:30pm. Group Leaders are required to supervise a specific grade level of children through creativity games, outdoor play, and during homework periods. EMT/Nurse requirements must be certified in First Aid and CPR. If interested, please email your resume to Chris Mantz at cmantz@pleasantvilleny.gov or call 914-769-7950.

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It was with sadness and embarrassment I learned recently of the death of Ciaran Carson, poet, musician and author of what is surely one of the best books written on Irish traditional music I have ever had the pleasure of reading.

I am speaking, of course, of “Last Night’s Fun,” which borrows its title from the tune of the same name. Sadness, at the premature death of a man through who’s writing the world of Irish traditional music, was made eminently accessible; embarrassment, because I didn’t recognize the death of a master until two years had passed. Inexcusable!

The tune, “Last Night’s Fun,” is a simple tune. Listen to it a few times and you’ll have the gist. Listen a few more and your feet will be tapping and your head will nod in time to the tune’s rhythm.

Carson’s book, released in 1992, is the same. It’s 31 short chapters, most bearing the name of an Irish trad tune, give the reader a fascinating trip through tunes, performers and the whimsical nature of Irish music and musicians. Some of the tunes you may be familiar with (“Boil the Breakfast Early,” “Dowds No. 9,” “The Mountain Road”). And the book itself is one of the most eminently readable and entertaining treatises on music and life that you’ll ever read.

Carson died in 2019, at the age of 70, of lung cancer, the same ailment that laid low his favorite musician, and the major subject of the first chapter, the fabled, if not widely famous accordionist Joe Cooley. He plays his final performance with a cigarette clenched firmly in his mouth, a few weeks before his passing.

That first chapter alone is worth the purchase price. I didn’t pay much for my copy, having gotten it second-hand. The prior owner, a girl named Colleen, must have received it as a gift from a friend, named Ellen, all of this deduced from a penciled note on the fly cover: “6/98 To Colleen, who opens my eyes and ears! Ellen.” Ten years later the book was mine, and I have often wondered who Colleen and Ellen were, and what they are doing now.

For those of you to whom Carson is unknown, he was one of Ireland’s most eminent modern poets, winner of numerous awards, with a wealth of publications to his credit. Honing up on his poetry is keen on my to-do list. But it was his book on the music that truly moved me. As a fitting tribute, I have set a goal: to learn every tune Carson mentions, starting with “Last Night’s Fun.”

There’s a nice YouTube chip featuring Cape Breton Island fiddler Chrissy Crowley playing it, the first of several in a set (https://youtu.be/TvGFdKnK7/eu). You can also access it at “The Session,” a treasure trove of Irish traditional music (https://thesession.org/tunes/63). Use the Play Audio feature.

Here’s a tip if you are learning a tune from YouTube: Play it at a lower speed (settings /playback speed) than normal, say .75 or even .50. The sound will be horrible the slower you go, but it will be far easier to, first, whistle along, and then, when you’ve got it solidly in your grey matter, start trying it on your instrument of choice.

For those of you who’d like to take it further, perhaps we can build up a group of like-minded people, and when COVID finally releases its grip, get together once in a while for a good, old-fashioned “kitchen session” where we can share some tunes, play our hearts out or just listen and enjoy some good times and camaraderie. If you play an instrument, all the better. If you’d like to learn one, there’s none easier (or less expensive) than the tin whistle. Considered humble by some, it can produce the most beautiful of tones and tunes when put to good use.

Now, what makes a reel a reel? That’s for another day! That, and the difference between a tune and a song.

Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan was born and raised in the Bronx and is a second-, third- and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian, as his immigrant ancestors followed several paths to the New World. Reach him at brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com or on Twitter (@BrianGowan52M). He is the author of two books, “Thunder at Noon,” about the battle of Waterloo, and “Love, Son John,” about World War II. Both are available at Amazon.com.

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8:00 AM to 4:00 PM


As seen on HGT V Flea Market Flip.
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF PUTNAM

AMERICAN ADVISORS GROUP

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHANNA MULARADELIS; if living, and if she/he be dead, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

“JOHN DOE #1” through “JOHN DOE #12,” the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint,

Defendants.

To the above named Defendants

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff’s attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service. Your failure to appear or to answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of up to a maximum principal amount of $696,000.00 and interest, recorded on January 19, 2016, in Liber 6555 at Page 274, of the Public Records of PUTNAM County, New York., covering premises known as 6 EAST BELVEDERE STREET, COLD SPRING, NY 10516.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

PUTNAM County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: June 9th, 2021

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
Veronica M. Rundle, Esq.
900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310
Westbury, NY 11590
516-280-7675
It seems that several time-tested paradigms may be falling by the wayside, replaced by 21st century "truths." One of these paradigm changes is occurring in the time-honored tradition of selecting wines based on ratings offered by established wine critics. Published wine ratings have been sacrosanct measures of wine quality for decades. Before the coming of age of the Millennial generation, this paradigm was accepted at face value. Wine critics’ evaluations served as a tool for seeking out wine info and opinions. Media continues to be a valid and effective means of wine communication. These media continue to be infiltrated and may eventually obliterate the traditional wine critics who are being replaced by wine blogs or numbers generated and then promulgated by winemakers and wine-centric apps. This is the age of instant access to a street cred brand of trustworthiness. The use of technology has turned wine reviews and wine knowledge from a monologue into a dialogue.

My opinion? The inevitable tide of info sharing is a good thing for wine consumers, be they 1) novices seeking out like-minded social media contacts, 2) indecisive souls seeking point-of-sale advice regarding choices of similar wines or 3) wine sophisticates seeking validated opinions on the nuances of a specific wine or producer. My advice: Personal experience is the most reliable source of wine info. I will also state that the traditional wine media continues to be a valid and effective tool for seeking out wine info and opinions. Many established wine critics’ evaluations have lost the allure and luster they once had, but they still possess one element that provides value in the world of wine consumption – vetted insights. Many critics have spent decades acquiring an intuitive palate along with a hands-on knowledge base.

Herein lies an advantage over consumers’ growing reliance on fellow consumers for evaluations and opinions. A professional critic has acquired insights that results in reliable wine advice separate from numeric ratings and forged by continuous discussions with winemakers, numerous walks through vineyards and frequent exposure to wine as the ultimate expression of nature. It is in the nuances of wine that the truest expression of value emerges. The skills to identify these nuances are honed over time. My advice: Personal experience is the best source of reliable information. Text with your friends; tweet with winemakers; seek out like-minded social media contacts. But don’t discount traditional sources. The ultimate outcome of wine info sourcing is yet to be determined.

Nick Antonaccio is a 45-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member and program director of the Wine Media Guild of wine journalists. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
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